

## Message Text

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66

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 OIC-04 ISO-00 DLOS-07 INT-08 IO-14 CG-00 CEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 JUSE-00

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01

/228 W

----- 011474

R 170155Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8387

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2250

CARACAS FOR LOSDEL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: COOK ISLANDS PREMIER TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF  
COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

1. IN PRESS AND TV STATEMENTS JULY 14 COOK ILSANDS  
PREMIER SIR ALBERT HENRY INDICATED HIS COUNTRY MAY  
SEEK FULL INDEPENDENCE. (AT PRESENT COOK ISLANDS  
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HANDLED BY GNZ.) STATEMENT  
COMES AS SURPRISE TO MFA PERSONNEL WHO HAD FEW INDICATIONS  
OF DIRECTION SIR ALBERT'S THINKING.

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2. SUDDEN INTEREST IN TOTAL INDEPENDENCE STEMS FROM

REPORTED DISCOVERY OF LARGE DEPOSITS MANGANESE NODULES  
OFF COOK ISLANDS. DISCOVERY MADE BY NZ DEPARTMENT  
SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SHIP EARLY THIS YEAR  
WHILE SHIP WAS ON OCEANOGRAPHIC VOYAGE DOING OTHER  
RESEARCH. ACTUAL QUANTITY AND EXTENT OF DEPOSITS UNKNOWN.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA DEPOSITS ARE OUTSIDE COOK ISLANDS  
TERRITORIAL WATERS BUT WOULD BE WITHIN A 200 MILE  
ECONOMIC ZONE. BECAUSE OF THIS COOK ISLANDS INTEREST  
IN LOS CONFERENCE AND GNZ'S REPRESENTATION OF COOKS IN  
CARACAS HAS SUDDENLY ASSUMED NEW DIMENSION. SIR ALBERT  
ARRIVED WELLINGTON JULY 16 TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GNZ.  
HE HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED HE WILL BE GOING TO CARACAS TO  
TAKE PART IN LOS CONFERENCE.

4. GNZ REACTION TO SIR ALBERT'S STATEMENTS HAS BEEN  
RELAXED . KIRK GOVERNMENT FEELS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY  
TOWARD COOK ISLANDS BUT WILL NOT MAKE ANY WAVES SHOULD  
TOTAL INDEPENDENCE BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY.  
SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, NZ, CW, (HENRY, ALBERT SIR)  
**To:** STATE  
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